ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Image forming device and image forming method providing at least two printing speed of a printing engine dependent on data volume of a raster. Printing data transmitted from a host computer are stored in RAM and developed into image data by CPU. The image data are compressed by ASIC and stored in the RAM. The CPU determines if the compressed image data can be printed at a high printing speed by comparing a predetermined data volume with the compressed data volume of the raster having the largest data volume (the greatest raster length) among rasters constituting the image data. High speed printing is selected for the laser units if determination falls that high speed printing is feasible, whereas low speed printing is selected for the laser units if high speed printing is not feasible. Then, the compressed image data are sent to the ASIC on a raster by raster basis and transferred to the laser units for printing after having been decompressed.